

With their strong work ethic, Greek-Americans have risen to become leaders in their respective professions, from government to business to the arts. The Daughters of Penelope has been a vehicle through which this advancement has occurred in our society.

I want to thank Chairman TOWNS and Ranking Member ISSA for their support of this bill and for moving it through the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the resolution considered by the House today, H. Res. 209. This bill recognizes the numerous and wide-ranging contributions made to American society by the Daughters of Penelope, the women's affiliate of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.

The Order of the Daughters of Penelope was conceived by Alexandra Apostolides Sonnenfeld and founded on November 16, 1929. In the midst of the economic collapse that led to the Great Depression, Mrs. Apostolides recognized the importance of unity, philanthropy, and education. She and 25 charter members formed the first chapter of the Daughters of Penelope, which is today a leader in philanthropic, educational and cultural activities with over 350 chapters in the U.S., Canada, Greece, Cyprus, and Australia.

H. Res. 209 highlights some of the organization's crowning achievements, including the establishment of Penelope House, a shelter for women and children that aims to help victims of domestic violence regain social and economic independence, and the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, which grants scholarships to promising students and facilitates donations of children's books to needy organizations.

Another issue of critical importance is the oral history project organized and donated to the Library of Congress by the Daughters of Penelope. This project chronicles the experiences of first-generation Greek-American women. I know this project will preserve these vital records so that future generations of Greek-Americans—like my children—will maintain an important link with their ancestors.

I am proud of my Greek heritage and of the accomplishments of the Order of the Daughters of Penelope. I think it only fitting that now, as we face our own economic crisis, we recognize the importance of those values that carry us through the most difficult times. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 209, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING ALDINE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR WINNING THE BROAD PRIZE FOR URBAN EDUCATION

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the reso-

lution (H. Res. 791) congratulating the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, on winning the 2009 "Broad Prize for Urban Education", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 791

Whereas the thousands of employees of the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, work hard to create a supportive, safe, and effective learning environment, enabling students to achieve academic success;

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District uses a district-wide strategic plan, which is focused on student achievement, student behavior, and community relations;

Whereas the leadership of the Aldine Independent School District is vigilant in ensuring that all staff, departments, schools, and resources continue to focus on the district-wide strategic plan;

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District, through the use of creative teaching technology, has set clear, rigorous expectations for teachers and has provided school management with increased oversight;

Whereas data from the Texas Education Agency indicates that the Aldine Independent School District consistently ranks among the high performing school districts in the State;

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District ranks among the top large school districts in Texas for educating African-American students and Hispanic students, according to a recent study conducted by Texas Agricultural & Mechanical University and the University of Texas-Pan American;

Whereas between 2005 and 2008, the SAT and Advanced Placement participation rates for African-American and Hispanic students in the Aldine Independent School District increased significantly;

Whereas in 2008, African-American students in the Aldine Independent School District achieved higher proficiency rates in math at all school levels and in reading at the middle and high school levels compared with other students in Texas;

Whereas in 2008, a greater percentage of Hispanic students in the Aldine Independent School District performed at the highest achievement level on State reading and math assessments at all school levels compared to other school districts in the State;

Whereas in 2008, a greater percentage of low-income students in the Aldine Independent School District performed at the highest achievement level on State reading and math assessments at all school levels compared to other school districts in the State;

Whereas nationwide, family income level is typically a strong statistical predictor of school performance;

Whereas in the Aldine Independent School District, poverty does not appear to be statistically related to achievement at any school level or in math or reading, despite a high enrollment of students considered to be low-income;

Whereas between 2005 and 2008, the Aldine Independent School District narrowed the income achievement gaps in reading at all school levels and in math at the elementary and middle school levels;

Whereas the "Broad Prize for Urban Education", the largest education award for school districts in the United States, was established in 2002 by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation;

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District has been a finalist four times for the "Broad Prize for Urban Education";

Whereas in 2008, the Aldine Independent School District outperformed other Texas school districts that serve students with similar family incomes in reading and math at all school levels, according to the Broad Prize methodology; and

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District was selected from among 100 of the largest school districts in the country to win the 2009 "Broad Prize for Urban Education": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, for the outstanding achievement of winning the 2009 "Broad Prize for Urban Education", the largest education award for school districts in the United States; and

(2) congratulates the entire Aldine Independent School District community on the hard work and dedication the community has demonstrated toward student achievement, particularly the efforts of the community toward reducing the achievement gaps among ethnic groups and between high- and low-income students.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 791 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 791, which recognizes and congratulates the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, for winning the 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

Aldine's commitment to academic achievement, its high expectations for its students, and its dedication to narrowing the racial and income achievement gaps make it a most deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

Established in 2002 by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, the Broad Prize for Urban Education is the largest education award for school districts in the United States.

After finishing as a finalist for the prize 3 years previously, the Aldine Independent School District this year was chosen from among 100 of the largest school districts in the country to receive the \$1 million award. The Aldine School District has shown some of the most consistent student achievement gains nationally in the last decade.

Nationwide, family income levels generally are a strong indicator of students' school performance, but the Aldine School District, where four out of

five students receive free or reduced lunch, refuses to accept excuses for student success and chooses instead to break the predictive power of poverty.

Between 2005 and 2008, the Aldine Independent School District narrowed achievement gaps in reading at all school levels and in math at the elementary and middle school levels. In 2008, students in the Aldine schools outperformed other Texas school districts that served students with similar family incomes.

The Aldine Independent School District also ranks among the top large school districts in Texas for educating African American and Hispanic students. Between 2005 and 2008, SAT and Advanced Placement participation rates for these student populations increased significantly. Further, African American students achieved higher proficiency rates in math at all school levels and in reading at the middle and high school levels compared with other students in Texas. And a greater percentage of Hispanic students performed at the highest level on reading and math assessments at all school levels compared to other school districts.

Providing our young people with a high quality education is one of our Nation's most important duties and involves some of the most challenging and rewarding work. Today, we recognize the outstanding work being done at the Aldine Independent School District. Aldine's dedicated leadership and vigilant efforts are helping ensure the academic and life success of its students.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for congratulating the Aldine Independent School District on winning the 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 791, congratulating the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, on winning the 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

Few goals could be more important to American public education today than closing the achievement gaps among students by race, income, language, and gender. The goal is particularly critical for the Nation's urban public schools. The achievement gap is the difference in performance between groups of students, especially groups defined by race/ethnicity and family income.

Although bringing about comprehensive change in our educational system may be difficult, the Aldine Independent School District teachers and staff have worked hard to create a supportive, safe, and effective learning environment which has enabled students to achieve academic success.

The Aldine Independent School District ranks among the highest per-

forming school districts in the State of Texas. In addition, it is one of the top large school districts in the State for African American and Hispanic students. Between 2005 and 2008, the SAT and Advanced Placement participation rates for these groups increased significantly. In 2008, African American students achieved higher proficiency rates in math at all school levels, and in reading at the middle school and high school levels. And Hispanic students performed at the highest achievement level on reading and math assessments compared to other school districts in the State.

It is clear that the Aldine Independent School District is a shining example of what is right about urban education. As a result, the school district was awarded the \$2 million Broad Prize for Urban Education this year.

Established in 2002 by the Broad Foundation, the Broad Prize is the largest education award in the country given to school districts. The prize is awarded each year to honor urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among low-income and minority students.

I would like to congratulate Superintendent Wanda Bamberg and all of the principals, teachers, staff and students for all of their hard work which made this award possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues for support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) for 2 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in strong support of House Resolution 791, which congratulates the Aldine Independent School District in Houston, Harris County, Texas, on winning the 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

It is pronounced Aldine, but there is a good joke about when the railroad ran through 50 years ago, that was where they stopped for lunch. So that is how we got our name, "all dine," but it is pronounced Aldine.

Established in 2002 by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, the Broad Prize is actually the largest education award in the country given to any school district. The Broad Prize for Urban Education is awarded to honor urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing the achievement gaps among low-income and minority students.

This year, the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, was selected from among 100 of the largest school districts in the United States to win this prestigious award. This is not surprising, knowing firsthand the extent to which every staff member and teacher in the Aldine

Independent School District is dedicated to increasing student achievement and ensuring that every student has the tools he or she needs to thrive and be a critical thinker, problem solver, and a productive citizen.

My wife taught high school algebra in the Aldine Independent School District for many years where our children attended and graduated, and I am proud to represent the Aldine ISD in Congress.

Quality education has been the goal of Aldine for many years, and their current superintendent, Wanda Bamberg, carries on the tradition of expecting excellence, as Nadine Kujawa and Sonny Donaldson did before her.

With the Broad Prize award, graduating high school seniors in the Aldine Independent School District who have demonstrated a record of academic improvement during their high school careers and have significant financial need will be directly awarded \$1 million in Broad Prize scholarships to continue their education.

This is the fourth time Aldine has been selected as a finalist for this prestigious award, and it is no surprise given the district's focus on their five core commitments:

They believe each student can learn at or above grade level and will have equal opportunity to do so.

They believe their school district can achieve higher levels of performance through clearly defined goals that set high exceptions for student achievement.

They believe in the value of parents as the first and best teachers, and that the community must actively participate in the development of all children.

They believe in the value of each employee, in his or her personal and professional growth, and in empowering each one to be accountable to make decisions in line with the vision of the school district.

They believe all environments should be supportive, safe and secure.

By winning this award, they have proven their commitment to these five goals, and I have no doubt that Aldine ISD will continue to be a leader in education for years to come.

This resolution recognizes the Aldine Independent School District for their outstanding achievement in winning the largest education award for school districts in the United States, the 2009 Broad Prize for Education.

Again, congratulations to the entire Aldine Independent School District community for their hard work and dedication toward student achievement, and particularly their efforts in reducing the achievement gaps among low-income and minority students. The school board members, administrative staff, teachers, parents, and children worked hard to earn this recognition, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) as much time as he may consume.

Mr. POE of Texas. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank my friend, Mr. GREEN, for introducing this legislation. He and I buttress congressional districts in the Houston, Harris County area, and some of the schools in the Aldine Independent School District are in my district as well.

The Broad Prize for Urban Education, established in 2002, is the largest education award in the country given to school districts. Aldine was chosen to receive this award from 100 of the largest school districts in all of the United States. And that allows seniors from the Aldine School District to be eligible for 2- to 4-year scholarships up to \$20,000 due to this award that is going to the school district.

The Aldine School District consistently ranks among the highest performing school districts in the whole State of Texas according to the Texas Education Agency. And the Aldine School District has been a finalist four times for the Broad Prize for Urban Education.

Between 2005 and 2008, the Aldine Independent School District narrowed the income achievement gap in reading at all levels, and in math at the elementary and middle school levels. This school district has done a tremendous job with the students, working with the teachers and the administration to bring up the education quality of the students and prepare them for lifetime experiences.

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So I want to congratulate the Aldine School District and all of their work. This award is well deserved, and it is my hope that all school districts across Texas and the United States can mirror the success of this school district in achieving high academic quality throughout their school districts.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 791.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 791, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 659) congratulating Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., on 98 years of serving local communities and enriching the lives of collegiate men throughout the Nation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 659

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., was founded on January 5, 1911, on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, by Elder Watson Diggs, John Milton Lee, Byron K. Armstrong, Guy Levis Grant, Ezra D. Alexander, Henry T. Asher, Marcus P. Blakemore, Paul W. Caine, Edward G. Irvin, and George W. Edmonds;

Whereas the founders of Kappa Alpha Psi were young men who possessed the imagination, ambition, courage, and determination to defy custom in pursuit of college educations and careers during an oppressive time in American history for African-Americans;

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi stressed the importance of achievement in seeking to set the sights of African-American youth on accomplishments greater than those they otherwise would have imagined or realized;

Whereas, since its founding, Kappa Alpha Psi has matured to an organization of over 150,000 college-trained men;

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi's undergraduate chapters are located on more than 360 college and university campuses and its alumni chapters are located in 347 cities in the United States and 5 foreign countries;

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi has a partnership with Habitat for Humanity and builds a home for a local family in conjunction with each of its biennial conventions;

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi has a partnership with Memphis-based St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and has designated the hospital as the primary benefactor of its national fundraising efforts;

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi sponsors Kappas on Capitol Hill, a four-day conference for its members in the Nation's capitol designed to increase its members' awareness of the political process through workshops, seminars, and lectures;

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi has emphasized financial literacy in its community-based outreach, implementing two major programs, Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) and Greeks Learning to Avoid Debt (GLAD) in partnership with the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council;

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi, through its Kappa League and National Guide Right programs, has provided thousands of at-risk youth in communities throughout the Nation with role models and mentors that encourage them to make positive contributions to, and to take leadership roles in, their communities;

Whereas, since 1990, Kappa Alpha Psi's Kappa Scholarship Fund has provided scholarship grants to over 10,000 high school graduates to assist in furthering their education;

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi's chapters nationwide regularly participate in its Holiday Food Drive, provides food, clothing, and toys to low income citizens in many metropolitan and rural communities throughout the Nation;

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi's national theme of "One Kappa, Creating Inspiration: A Call to Service" has mobilized Kappa men across the Nation who are leaders in business, education, government, the humanities, arts and entertainment, science, and medicine to become better servant leaders for their respective families and communities, the Nation, and the fraternity at large; and

Whereas Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., will hold its 79th Grand Chapter Meeting in

Washington, DC, August 4 through August 9, 2009; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., on 98 years of serving local communities and enriching the lives of collegiate men throughout the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 659 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLÁN. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 659, which congratulates Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, on 98 years of service and leadership.

Founded in 1911 at Indiana University, Bloomington, Kappa Alpha Psi's fundamental purpose is achievement. It seeks to develop its members, particularly its collegiate men, into leaders in their communities and into achievers of excellence in their academic pursuits. This distinguished fraternity boasts undergraduate chapters on more than 364 college and university campuses and alumni chapters in more than 347 U.S. cities and 5 foreign countries.

In honor of the ideals it was founded on, members of Kappa Alpha Psi play active roles in their communities. The fraternity sponsors an array of programs providing community service and social welfare. Members participating in their Biennial Undergraduate Leadership Institute built homes in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity in St. Louis in 2005 and in Minneapolis in 2007.

The fraternity maintains a philanthropic partnership with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, with each chapter committed to serving that cause. Additionally, its chapters annually participate in the Holiday Food Drive, working to provide food, clothing and toys to local citizens in need.

The values and principles of Kappa Alpha Psi have attracted a diverse group of men throughout the years, many who have gone on to become prominent and achieved members of society. Among them are Percy Sutton, entrepreneur and owner of the Apollo Theater; Judge Herman Thomas, justice on the State Supreme Court of Alabama; Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, author of "Black Muslims in America"; Ralph Wiley, sportswriter and author; and numerous State and elected officials.